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THE Wool SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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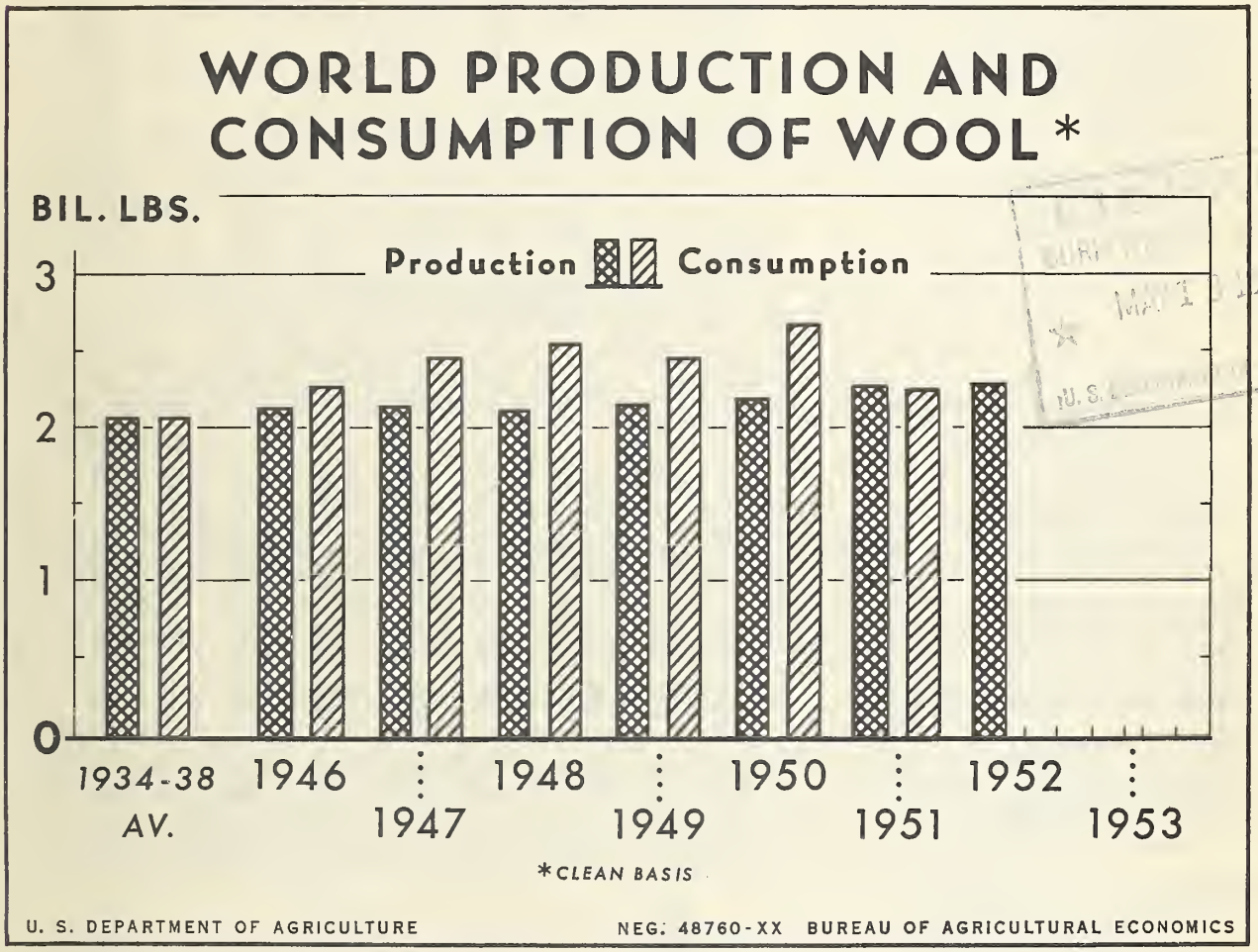

World consumption of wool exceeded production during each of the first 5 postwar years. Consumption during 1946-50 is estimated to have totaled 12.3 billion pounds, clean basis, while production during the same period is estimated to have been only 10.7 billion pounds. The 15 percent excess of consumption over production during those years was made possible by the large wartime accumulation which resulted from the reduced consumption in Continental Europe and Japan where two-fifths of the world output was consumed before the war. The reduction in consumption in these areas was only partially offset by the large increase in North America.

Consumption reached a record of almost 2.7 billion pounds in 1950. This was about one-fifth more than production. Consumption declined sharply in 1951, however, to about 2.2 billion pounds and was about one percent less than production.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Item	Unit	PRICES 1951 Apr.	1951 May	1951 June	1951 July	1952 Apr.	1952 May	1952 June	1952 July	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Price received by farmers	Cents	109.0	105.0	101.0	89.3	49.9	51.0	51.8	52.7	59
Parity price	Cents	56.9	56.7	56.9	56.7	60.4	60.4	59.8	59.8	105
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	192	185	178	157	83	84	87	88	
Boston market prices: 1/										
Domestic wool	Cents per pound									
Territory, scoured basis										
64's, 70's, 80's staple	"	333.8	313.0	285.0	260.0	158.0	159.4	160.0	162.7	63
56's, combing	"	266.2	242.0	220.0	195.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	132.0	68
Bright fleece, greasy basis										
64's, 70's, 80's, delaine	"	130.2	120.6	110.0	101.0	60.6	61.1	62.0	63.2	63
56's, combing	"	132.5	123.6	112.5	98.2	59.8	58.5	58.5	59.4	60
Foreign wool, excluding duty										
Australian, clean basis										
64's, 70's, good topmaking	"	327.5	301.0	282.5	245.0	137.5	142.5	142.5	142.5	58
Montevideo grease basis										
56's, (Is)	"	191.2	163.0	150.0	130.0	68.4	68.0	68.0	69.5	53
50's, (IIs)	"	180.0	154.8	144.6	125.0	63.4	63.0	63.0	63.6	51
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 2/	"	45.2	45.2	45.2	40.1	40.7	38.6	40.4	39.4	98
Rayon, staple fiber										
Viscose 1 1/2 denier	"	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	3/	100
Acetate 5 denier	"	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	3/	88

		CONSUMPTION AND SUPPLIES 1951 Feb.	1951 Mar.	1951 Apr.	1951 May	1952 Feb.	1952 Mar.	1952 Apr.	1952 May 4/	
Mill consumption-scoured basis 5/										
Per week, during month 6/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	7,414	6,986	8,574	8,418	6,189	5,981	6,004	6,387	76
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	"	3,312	3,179	2,468	1,813	2,430	2,313	2,204	2,138	118
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Mil.lb.	69.9	97.9	140.7	174.4	54.1	78.0	108.0	133.6	77
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	"	29.8	42.6	54.9	62.1	20.7	30.0	41.0	49.5	80
Imports - actual weight 7/										
Apparel wool (dutiable)	"	35.0	51.1	52.2	41.6	30.4	26.9	36.9	33.6	81
Carpet wool (duty-free)	"	14.5	14.8	21.5	12.9	9.6	15.3	13.4	10.6	82
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel wool (dutiable)	"	84.4	135.5	187.7	229.4	61.2	88.2	125.0	158.6	69
Carpet wool (duty-free)	"	37.0	51.8	73.3	86.2	20.2	35.6	49.0	59.6	69
Imports - clean content 7/										
Apparel wool (dutiable)	"	22.2	32.2	32.5	26.1	19.9	17.4	24.0	22.1	85
Carpet wool (duty-free)	"	9.9	10.7	15.4	9.3	7.1	10.7	9.8	7.9	85
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel wool (dutiable)	"	52.6	84.7	117.3	143.4	39.9	57.3	81.3	103.4	72
Carpet wool (duty-free)	"	25.3	36.0	51.4	60.7	14.8	25.5	32.3	43.2	71
Reported stocks (scoured basis) 8/										
Apparel wool	"		130.2				130.6			100
Privately owned	"		130.2				130.6			100
Domestic wool	"		35.6				55.6			156
Foreign wool	"		94.6				75.0			79
Government owned			3/				3/			
Carpet wool	"		45.0				34.1			76
Wool fabric production										
Accumulated since January 1	Million linear yards									
Apparel fabrics			81.7				75.5			92
Government orders	"		9.5				23.1			243
Men's and boys' wear	"		38.0				24.7			65
Women's and children's wear	"		34.2				27.7			81
Non-apparel fabrics	"		14.0				11.6			83
Blanketing	"		4.8				6.6			138
Other non-apparel fabrics	"		9.2				5.0			54
Total woven fabric	"		95.7				87.1			91

Compiled from official sources. 1/ FMA Boston Market Reports. 2/ Average of 10 markets. 3/ Not available. 4/ Preliminary. 5/ Excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems, and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products. 6/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter. 7/ Imports for consumption. 8/ Ending April 1, 1951 and March 29, 1952. Includes wool held on consignment, wool in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, and wool held in bond, but excludes wool held by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the Department of Defense and wool held by or for the account of growers.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, August 8, 1952

SUMMARY

Prices of wool in foreign markets advanced considerably in recent months. Prices in the United States markets also have moved upward, but the gains have been much more moderate. The general advance reflects a strengthening of mill demand associated with an upturn in orders and sales and reduced inventories between mill and consumer.

Prices of fine wools at the closing Australian auctions late in June ranged between 25 and 30 percent above those of late March, when they were at the lowest levels of the season. Prices at the London auctions have shown similar advances. At the closing sales of the July auctions, fine wools were almost 20 percent higher and crossbred wools almost 50 percent higher than in early April. The closing prices, however, were about 5 percent lower than the opening. During the 12 months before the rise began, prices of fine wools had declined up to 60 percent and those of crossbred wools up to 80 percent.

Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool averaged 52.7 cents per pound, grease basis, in mid-July, compared with 49.9 cents in mid-April. The mid-July average was 88 percent of parity and 1 1/2 cents below the national average loan level. Prices at Boston for most domestic wools early in August were higher than at mid-April and were above their loan levels.

World consumption of wool during the first quarter is estimated to have increased slightly over the final quarter of 1951. However, the quantity consumed was about one-fifth less than during the first 3 months of 1951. Indications are that consumption during the second quarter was at about the same rate as during the previous quarter.

In the United States about one-fourth less apparel wool was consumed through May of this year than a year earlier. Consumption during the first quarter was the lowest since the second quarter of 1949. However, in the second quarter, when consumption usually declines seasonally, a slight increase is indicated. Consumption during the second half of the year probably will rise more than seasonally above the first half.

Mills used about one-fifth less carpet wool through May of this year than last. The rate for May, however, was over 15 percent above that of May 1951. Consumption during the remainder of the year is likely to be above that of last year.

World supply of wool for the 1952-53 season probably will be slightly larger than last season. The increase, however, will be in the crossbred wools, production of which is expected to rise about 2 percent. In addition, there is a somewhat larger quantity of unsold 1951-52 clip wool, mostly South American.

Production of wool in the United States this year is expected to total somewhat larger than last year. The quantity of wool shorn and to be shorn this year has been estimated at 230 million pounds, grease basis. Production of pulled wool also is likely to be up a little since sheep and lamb slaughter through June was up about one-fourth over last year.

Survey of Recent Developments

Prices Advance in Foreign Markets

From late March to late June, the final three months of the past season in Australia, prices of fine wool advanced between 25 and 30 percent. Between March 1951 and March 1952, prices of fine wools declined about 60 percent. The opening auctions of the 1952-53 season are scheduled for early September.

Prices at the London auctions also have advanced over the levels of late April (table 1). At the opening sales of the July auctions, prices of fine wools were up almost 10 percent and of crossbred wools almost 25 percent over those at the close of the May auctions. During the closing week of the sales, however, prices declined about 5 percent. The net advances since the close of the March series were almost 20 percent for fine wool and almost 50 percent for crossbred.

During the 12 months before the recent rise, prices of fine wools at London had declined about 60 percent and of crossbred about 80 percent.

Prices Advance at Boston

Boston quotations for most domestic wools have advanced in recent weeks. The increases since mid-April ranged up to 17.5 cents, clean basis, or 16 percent for graded Territory 1/4 blood good French combing and staple wool. Most of the increases ranged between 2.5 and 10.0 percent (table 2).

Graded domestic territory fine good French combing and staple wool, which was quoted at $1.58 at mid-April, was quoted at $1.66 late in July. Corresponding quotations for graded territory three-eighths blood good French combing and staple wool were 1.20 and $1.35.

Prices Received by Growers for Shorn Wool Advance

Prices received by growers for shorn wool increased from a national average of 49.9 cents per pound, grease basis, in mid-April to 52.7 cents at mid-July. The mid-July average was equivalent to 88 percent of parity for wool for that month and compared with the national average loan value for 1952 of 54.2 cents.

The mid-month average farm price for shorn wool, reflecting the trend of prices in foreign markets, advanced continuously from 46.5 cents (106 percent of parity) in October 1949 to $1.12 (199 percent of parity) at mid-March 1951. The mid-month average then declined each month through April of this year.

Table 1.- Prices of good fleece wools at the London auctions, in cents and pence per pound, clean basis, by months, 1950-52

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine Crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	64's-70's	56's	56's	46's	46's
	Cents	Pence	Cents	Pence	Cents	Pence
1950						
January 27	173.9	149.0	114.4	98.0	70.0	60.0
February 10	158.7	136.0	95.7	82.0	60.7	52.0
March 16	158.7	136.0	93.4	80.0	63.0	54.0
March 31	170.4	146.0	102.7	88.0	70.0	60.0
May 5	177.4	152.0	110.9	95.0	75.9	65.0
May 19	184.4	158.0	114.4	98.0	79.4	68.0
July 6	184.4	158.0	114.4	98.0	80.5	69.0
July 21	198.4	170.0	123.7	106.0	89.9	77.0
September 22	285.9	245.0	198.4	170.0	166.9	143.0
October 6	262.6	225.0	186.7	160.0	152.9	131.0
November 24	282.4	242.0	200.7	172.0	179.7	154.0
December 8	293.9	252.0	227.4	195.0	191.3	164.0
1951						
February 2	355.9	305.0	256.7	220.0	221.7	190.0
February 16	364.1	312.0	280.1	240.0	228.7	196.0
April 6	350.1	300.0	256.7	220.0	210.1	180.0
April 20	2/	2/	245.1	210.0	210.1	180.0
June 5	309.2	265.0	198.4	170.0	145.9	125.0
July 13	221.7	190.0	2/	2/	116.7	100.0
July 20	221.7	190.0	147.0	126.0	119.0	102.0
September 21	145.8	125.0	98.0	84.0	78.1	67.0
October 4	204.1	175.0	139.9	120.0	101.5	87.0
December 5	175.0	150.0	112.0	96.0	85.2	73.0
December 14	178.4	153.0	113.0	97.0	88.6	76.0
1952						
January 25	162.2	140.0	95.0	82.0	81.1	70.0
February 8	165.7	143.0	98.5	85.0	81.1	70.0
March 21	147.3	126.0	79.5	68.0	57.3	49.0
April 3	147.5	126.0	72.6	62.0	51.5	44.0
May 16	163.5	140.0	91.1	78.0	64.2	55.0
May 23	166.3	143.0	91.9	79.0	64.0	55.0
July 18	181.1	156.0	104.5	90.0	78.9	68.0
July 25	174.2	150.0	96.4	83.0	76.6	66.0

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

1/ Quotations are for weeks ending on dates shown, which are opening and closing weeks for each series.
2/ No quotation.

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended August 1, 1952 with comparisons

Classification	1950 week ended June 23	1951 week ended Mar. 16	1952 week ended Apr. 18	1952 week ended Aug. 1	Percent change week ended August 1, 1952, from week ended: June 23, 1950	March 16, 1951	April 18, 1952
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded shorn							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	176.0	380.0	157.5	166.0	- 5.7	- 56.3	+ 5.4
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	158.5	345.0	135.0	147.5	- 7.0	- 57.2	+ 9.3
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	139.5	315.0	120.0	135.0	- 3.2	- 57.1	+12.5
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	122.5	300.0	110.0	127.5	+ 4.1	- 57.5	+15.9
Low 1/4 blood	97.5	260.0	97.5	103.0	+ 5.6	- 60.4	+ 5.6
Common and braid	92.5	255.0	92.5	97.5	+ 5.4	- 61.8	+ 5.4
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	182.5	380.0	150.0	167.5	- 8.2	- 55.9	+11.7
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	158.5	330.0	130.0	144.5	- 8.8	- 56.2	+11.2
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	127.5	290.0	110.0	112.5	-11.8	- 61.2	+ 2.3
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	122.5	275.0	105.0	107.0	-12.7	- 61.1	+ 1.9
Low 1/4 blood	102.5	245.0	95.0	97.5	- 4.9	- 60.2	+ 2.6
Common and braid	97.5	240.0	87.5	92.5	- 5.1	- 61.5	+ 5.7
Original bag shorn							
Fine Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	174.5	380.0	157.5	170.5	- 2.3	- 55.1	+ 8.3
Eight months (1 inch and over)	157.5	320.0	140.0	155.0	- 1.6	- 51.6	+10.7
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	127.5	275.0	137.5	142.5	+11.8	- 48.2	+ 3.6

Compiled from market reports of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Domestic Shorn Wool
Production Increases

The quantity of wool shorn and to be shorn this year is estimated at 229.8 million pounds, grease basis. This is about 4 million pounds or 2 percent more than was shorn last year but about 41 percent less than the record of 388 million pounds of 1942 (table 3).

Table 3.- Number of sheep and lambs shorn,, weight per fleece, and shorn wool production, United States 1940-52

Year	Sheep and lambs shorn 1/	Weight per fleece 2/	Shorn wool production
	Thousands	Pounds	Thousand pounds
1940	46,313	8.03	372,014
1941	47,722	8.12	387,520
1942	49.287	7.88	388,297
1943	47,892	7.91	378,843
1944	43,165	7.84	338,318
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899
1950	26,387	8.16	215,422
1951 3/	27,357	8.24	225,545
1952 3/	27,769	8.27	229,750

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards. 2/ For Texas and California the weight per fleece is the amount of wool shorn per sheep and lamb during the year. 3/ Preliminary.

The increase in shorn wool production this year reflects a larger number of sheep shorn and a record average fleece weight. About 1 1/2 percent more sheep were shorn this year than last year. The new record fleece weight of 8.27 pounds compared with 8.24 pounds last year.

Production of shorn wool in the "native" or "fleece" wool States is estimated at 66 million pounds with an average fleece weight of 7.53 pounds. Last year 61 million pounds were shorn with an average weight per fleece of 7.52 pounds. Production in all of the "native" States, except Maine, Missouri, and Oklahoma was equal to or greater than last year.

Production of shorn wool in the 13 Western sheep States (11 Western States, South Dakota, and Texas) is estimated at 164 million pounds, about the same as last year. The number of sheep shorn and to be shorn is estimated at a little more than 1 percent below last year. The average weight per fleece of 8.61 pounds is slightly higher than last year and the second highest on record. Production declined in Texas, Wyoming, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada but increased in the other Western States. Shorn wool production in Texas, estimated at 47 million pounds, is down 4 percent from 1951.

Table 4.- Wool, grease basis: Production in specified countries, 1947-52

Continent and Country	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951 1/	1952 1/
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
North America						
Canada	14.1	11.9	9.8	9.5	8.7	8.7
United States	308.0	278.4	248.5	247.8	250.4	260.0
Estimated total 2/	333.1	302.3	270.5	271.2	274.8	284.8
Europe						
United Kingdom	71.8	75.0	82.5	89.0	88.0	90.0
Eire	13.3	12.2	12.0	13.7	14.0	14.8
France	28.6	29.3	33.9	35.0	40.0	40.0
Spain	77.0	88.0	82.0	90.0	90.0	90.0
Portugal	18.0	18.0	17.0	21.2	22.0	22.0
Italy	27.1	28.9	35.3	35.0	35.5	35.0
Germany (Western)	25.4	16.8	19.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Estimated total 2/ 3/	397.7	424.5	444.7	468.0	478.6	482.9
Soviet Union	285.8	304.6	314.9	325.0	335.0	370.0
Asia						
Iran	30.0	29.8	24.7	32.6	34.2	35.0
Iraq	24.2	32.7	26.7	28.7	30.0	32.0
Syria	12.7	12.1	10.0	13.0	15.0	16.0
Turkey	71.2	75.5	70.9	67.2	73.0	75.0
Afghanistan	15.0	17.0	17.2	18.0	18.0	18.0
China	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0
India	54.5	53.0	46.2	50.5	52.0	58.0
Pakistan	26.0	26.0	27.0	27.0	25.0	25.0
Estimated total 2/	341.8	367.7	344.2	358.9	369.5	381.5
South America						
Argentina	475.0	419.0	420.0	420.0	430.0	420.0
Brazil	43.0	45.2	48.5	47.4	51.8	52.0
Chile	41.9	41.9	46.3	44.0	44.0	45.0
Peru	15.9	17.2	18.7	19.2	20.5	20.5
Uruguay	150.3	144.0	163.3	180.8	187.4	188.0
Estimated total 2/	743.6	685.0	712.7	727.7	750.1	742.4
Africa						
Algeria	13.8	12.0	15.6	19.6	22.8	24.0
French Morocco	25.0	28.0	30.0	33.1	35.3	29.7
Tunisia	11.0	7.9	8.0	11.0	12.0	13.0
Union of South Africa	205.2	219.0	217.5	227.5	223.7	220.0
Estimated total 2/	267.8	279.4	283.0	304.6	307.2	310.5
Oceania						
Australia	973.0	1,031.0	1,109.0	1,160.0	1,110.0	1,100.0
New Zealand	362.0	367.0	390.0	372.0	374.0	390.0
Estimated total 2/	1,540.2	1,398.1	1,499.1	1,532.1	1,484.1	1,490.1
Estimated world total 4/	3,710.0	3,760.0	3,870.0	4,000.0	4,000.0	4,070.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes other countries not shown in table. 3/ Excludes U.S.S.R.
4/ Rounded to tens of millions.

Compiled from reports of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

World Wool Production
Continues to Increase

World production of apparel and carpet wool during the 1952-53 season is estimated at 4,070 million pounds, grease basis, by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations (table 4). This is about 70 million pounds over the revised estimate of production during the 1951-52 season.

World output of wool has trended gradually upward after reaching a postwar low in 1947. The estimate for 1952 is only slightly below the record output of 4,200 million pounds in 1941. Roughly one-fifth of the world output is classed as carpet wool. A slightly larger increase is expected for carpet wool than for apparel wool. Production of merino wool probably will be down slightly.

The gradual increase in wool production since 1947 reflects the steady rise in the number of sheep. The world total at the beginning of 1952 is estimated at 808 million head. This is 4 percent over the 778 million head of a year earlier and 3 percent above the previous record of 782 million head in 1942. The increases in wool production estimated for 1951 and 1952 are somewhat lower than the increases in the number of sheep for those years. Drought in Australia, Union of South Africa, and Argentina, three of the major wool producing countries, reduced the fleece weight and quality considerably.

Commercial Wool Stocks
in United States Decline Slightly

Stocks of raw wool in the hands of dealers and manufacturers in the United States at the end of the first quarter totaled 165 million pounds, scoured basis (table 5). This does not include wool held for the account of or by growers, wool afloat, and wool held for the Department of Defense. The figure represents a decline of almost 9 million pounds during the first quarter of the year.

During the first three months of this year, holdings of apparel wool were lowered from 135 to 131 million pounds, while stocks of carpet class wools dropped from 38 to 34 million pounds. A year earlier, holdings of apparel wool totaled 130 million pounds and of carpet wool 45 million pounds.

Stocks of foreign apparel wool in the first quarter were reduced from 78 to 75 million pounds, while holdings of domestic dropped from 57 to 56 million.

Manufacturers' holdings were reduced from 85 to 76 million pounds, while dealer stocks increased from 50 to 55 million pounds.

Mill and dealer holdings of apparel wool were equivalent to about 21.8 weeks of consumption at the average weekly rate of the first quarter, compared with the 1935-39 average of 20.8 weeks and about 17.3 weeks in 1951.

Table 5.- Commercial stocks of apparel wool, scoured basis, April 1, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, 1935-39 average and 1940-52 1/

Year	Owned by dealers and mills		Owned by United States Government		Total reported Stocks	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks 2/	
	Domestic wool	Foreign wool	CCC (Domestic)	DSC (Foreign)		Privately owned	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number
1935-39 Average	76,588 3/	32,587			3/109,175	20.8	20.8
1940	51,006	43,808			94,814	18.3	18.3
1941	44,266	70,316			114,582	12.9	12.9
1942	66,781	4/104,356		113,355	284,492	16.0	26.5
1943	59,962	86,448		168,378	314,788	12.2	26.3
1944	32,455	133,975	83,400	157,746	407,576	14.2	34.8
1945	34,378	153,946	125,600	35,553	349,477	14.7	27.2
1946	36,023	189,455	195,900		421,378	19.6	36.6
1947	51,179	159,649	193,400		404,228	18.1	34.8
1948	76,906	130,281	139,265		346,452	19.8	33.0
1949	57,705	74,872	66,744		199,321	20.3	30.5
1950	55,405	70,882	16,948		143,235	14.9	16.9
1951	35,552	94,652	5/		6/130,204	17.3	17.3
1952	55,589	75,048	5/		6/130,637	21.8	21.8

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census, Commodity Credit Corporation, and information furnished by Defense Supplies Corporation.

1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Dates of reports range from March 26 to April 4.
2/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption.
3/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat.
4/ Excludes 36's, 40's foreign wool.
5/ Negligible.
6/ Does not include wool held by CCC for Department of Defense.

Exports of Wool from Southern Hemisphere Surplus-producing Countries Below Last Season

Exports of wool from the 5 principal Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries during the 1951-52 season have been below those of the previous season (table 6). The quantity of unsold wool in these countries on July 1 of this year probably was somewhat larger than that of a year earlier. The decline in exports occurred even though the quantity of wool available for export has been somewhat larger: a slight decline in combined production during the season was more than offset by an increase of about 150 million pounds in carry-over from a year earlier.

Table 6.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere exporting countries, 1950-51 and 1951-52 seasons through May 1/

Exporting country	1950-51	1951-52	Percent change 1951-52 season from 1950-51 season
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Percent
Australia	954	837	-12
New Zealand 2/	200	355	+78
Union of South Africa	189	201	+ 6
Argentina 2/	163	31	-81
Uruguay	133	33	-75
Total	1,639	1,457	-11

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.
2/ Through April.
Compiled from reports of Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Smaller exports from Australia, Argentina, and Uruguay account for the drop in the total. Exports from both the Union of South Africa and New Zealand increased.

The decline in exports from Australia reflects a somewhat smaller production and a smaller carry-over (25 million pounds of Joint Organization wool were shipped out during the 1950-51 season). The sharp reduction for Argentina and Uruguay reflects the reluctance of growers to sell at prevailing world prices. In order to encourage growers to sell, the Argentine government recently lifted the export tax of 8 percent and revised the exchange rate for greasy and scoured wool until December 31, 1952. Under the revised exchange rates for wool exports, 50 percent will be at the basic rate of 5.00 pesos to the dollar and 50 percent at the preferential rate of 7.50 pesos to the dollar.

Wool Imports Below Last Year

Imports of apparel wool for consumption during each of the first 5 months of this year were below those of the same months of 1951. The total through May amounted to 103 million pounds, clean basis, or 159 million pounds actual weight. The quantity imported during the same months of 1951 totaled 143 million pounds, clean basis, or 229 million pounds actual weight. Imports during the first quarter of last year were larger than for the first quarter of any previous year since 1948. However, imports have been at a much lower rate since early 1951.

Imports of duty-free wools through May were also at a much lower rate than during early 1951. Imports of such wools through May totaled 43 million pounds, clean basis, or 60 million pounds actual weight. Imports for the same months of 1951 amounted to 61 million pounds, clean basis, or 86 million pounds, actual weight.

British Dominion (Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa) wools represented a much larger proportion of imports during the early months of this year than last year (table 7). Imports from these countries accounted for 65 percent of the total compared with 34 percent last year. At the same time, however, imports from Argentina and Uruguay, which accounted for 43 percent in 1951, accounted from only 15 percent this year.

Table 7.- Percentage distribution of U. S. imports of wool by country of origin, January-April 1951 and 1952

Country	Duty-free		Dutiable		Total	
	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Australia	0.1	0	31.1	49.2	21.6	34.3
New Zealand	2.7	25.5	7.2	20.2	5.8	21.8
Union of South Africa	0.5	0.1	9.4	12.1	6.7	8.4
Argentina	33.5	15.1	12.4	6.8	18.9	9.3
Uruguay	0.1	0.1	34.5	7.7	24.0	5.4
Other countries	63.1	59.2	5.4	4.0	23.0	20.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Compiled from reports of U. S. Department of Commerce.

Mill Consumption Down

Mills in the United States used about one-fourth less apparel wool through May of this year than a year earlier. Consumption during those months totaled 134 million pounds compared with 174 million in 1951. The rate of consumption during early 1951 was about 5 percent below that of early 1950. A much larger portion of the wool used early last year and this year went into military items than in early 1950 (see table 12). Consumption during the first quarter was the lowest since the second quarter of 1949.

All of the decline was on the worsted system. Consumption on the woolen system, 64 million pounds, was the same as last year. Consumption on the worsted system this year was 37 percent below last year and accounted for only 52.3 percent of the total compared with 63.5 percent last year (table 8). The shift in the proportions probably reflects the greater decline in output of men's wear fabrics than of women's, a shift towards woolens in men's suitings, and a sharply increased output of blanketing.

The decline was somewhat greater for the fine wools than for the others. The percent decline by grade categories was as follows: 60's and finer, 26 percent; 50's up to 60's, 24 percent; and 48's and coarser, 10 percent. The consumption of each as a percent of the total is given in table 9.

Table 8.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, January-May, 1946-52

System	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Worsted	57.8	63.0	66.1	60.6	67.6	63.5	52.3
Woolen	42.2	37.0	33.9	39.4	32.4	36.5	47.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 9.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, United States, January-May 1946-52

Grade	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
60's and finer	54.2	60.1	63.8	54.6	56.9	56.1	54.5
50's and up to 60's	31.4	26.9	25.4	34.6	33.5	33.6	33.4
48's and coarser	14.4	13.0	10.8	10.8	9.6	10.3	12.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Domestic mills used about one-fifth less carpet wool through May of this year than last. Consumption during January-May amounted to 50 million pounds, compared with 62 million pounds last year. The rate of consumption increased gradually from July last year through February of this year but declined slightly during the next three months. The rate for May, however, was 18 percent above that of May 1951.

World Consumption of Wool Increased Slightly During First Quarter

World consumption of raw wool during the first quarter of this year is estimated by the Commonwealth Economic Committee to have increased slightly over the final quarter of 1951. This estimate is based on data for eight major consuming countries which together account for about two-thirds of the world total. Consumption in these countries during the first quarter is estimated to have been 3 percent above the previous quarter.

Early this year, the Commonwealth Economic Committee tentatively estimated world consumption for 1951 at 2,150 million pounds, clean basis. This has recently been revised to 2,248 million pounds. The revised estimate for 1951 compares with a production estimate of 2,274 million pounds, clean basis, for the 1950-51 season (table 10).

Table 10.- Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1946-51

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951 1/	1952 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Production 2/	2,110	2,125	2,100	2,150	2,199	2,274	2,290
Consumption	2,251	2,434	2,541	2,427	2,675	2,248	

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Production during the season beginning July 1 of the previous year.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Less Yarn Spun on Woolen and Worsted Systems This Year

About 276 million pounds of yarn, regardless of fiber content, were spun on the woolen and worsted systems during January-May of this year. This compares with 331 million pounds during the same months of 1951 and with 315 million pounds in 1950.

Of the total poundage produced, 58 million pounds were carpet yarn. Output in 1951 amounted to 78 million pounds and in 1950 to 83 million pounds. Of the total fiber reported as consumed in the spinning of such yarn, raw wool accounted for 71 percent compared with 68 percent last year and 82 percent in 1950 (table 11).

Output of yarn other than carpet, 218 million pounds, was 14 percent less than last year and 6 percent less than in 1950. Output of woolen yarn was down 6 percent while output of worsted yarn was down one-fourth.

OPS Suspends Price Ceilings For Wool Yarn and Fabric

On May 20, 1952, the Office of Price Stabilization suspended price controls for wool yarns and fabrics. The regulation, however, provided for the reimposition of controls on these commodities when the price of a futures contract for the nearby month, as published by the Wool Associates of the New York Cotton Exchange, reaches $2.36 per pound for wool or $3.07 for wool top, or when the Bureau of Labor Statistics Index for broadwoven wool fabrics reaches 131.4, which is 90 percent of the June 1951 peak. The index for June 1952 was 112.2

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-52

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total													
1950	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1951	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1952	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0								
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	74.0	71.8	72.6	63.4	55.4	52.8	41.7	56.8	58.2	65.6	64.7	69.6	64.8
1952	70.4	73.2	71.5	71.5	70.2								
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.3	2.5	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.4	1.7	2.0	1.7	3.2	2.6
1952	2.9	2.4	3.4	4.0	4.3								
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.7	10.1	9.3	9.6	9.7	9.1	13.6	6.2	9.2	7.6	7.9	6.6	9.1
1952	6.8	5.8	4.8	5.0	5.6								
Rayon (staple and other)													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.2	13.1	13.2	21.4	28.4	30.7	34.2	29.6	26.4	20.9	21.7	17.2	20.2
1952	17.1	16.2	18.8	17.8	18.1								
Other fiber													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.8	2.5	2.0	2.5	3.3	4.2	7.4	5.0	4.5	3.9	4.0	3.4	3.3
1952	2.2	2.4	1.5	1.7	1.8								

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Output of Woolen and Worsted Fabrics below Last Year

Production of woolen and worsted woven fabric (fabric principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight) during the first quarter of this year amounted to 87.1 million finished linear yards. This compared with output of 95.7 million linear yards during the first quarter of last year and of 104.4 million yards in 1950.

Of the total for this year, 75.5 million yards were apparel fabric and 11.6 million were non-apparel. Of the apparel fabrics, 23.1 million yards or 30.6 percent were produced toward Government orders (table 12). For the first quarter of 1951, the percentage was 11.6 and for 1950 it was 2.9. Both the percentage and the quantity produced have declined sharply since the third quarter of last year.

Table 12.- Percent of woolen and worsted apparel fabric and blanketing produced toward Government orders, by quarters, 1950-52

Type of fabric	1950				1951				1952
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Apparel	2.9	2.1	1.4	4.7	11.6	29.4	47.1	38.6	30.6
Blanketing	1/	1/	1/	1/	12.4	56.1	69.7	56.4	41.0

1/ Not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Output of men's and boys' apparel fabrics totaled 24.7 million yards, a decline of 35 percent from the first quarter of 1951. Production of women's and children's apparel fabrics, however, declined only 19 percent and totaled 27.7 million yards during the quarter.

Of the 11.6 million yards of non-apparel fabrics produced, 6.6 million yards were blanketing. Of the blanketing, 41 percent was produced toward Government orders (table 12).

Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing down from Last Year

Cuttings of most items of men's tailored clothing during the first 5 months of this year were well below those of early 1951 (table 13). Suit cuttings were down 22 percent, and cuttings of overcoats and topcoats were down 28 percent. Cuttings of separate dress and sport trousers, however, were increased almost 3.5 percent.

For all categories, the proportion of garments cut containing 50 percent or more wool declined, while that of garments containing principally other material increased (table 14).

Table 13.- Cuttings of specified items of men's apparel, United States, January-May, 1950-52

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change in average weekly rates	
	1950 (21 weeks)	1951 (22 weeks)	1952 (22 weeks)	1951 from 1950	1952 from 1951
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	9,660	10,318	8,065	+ 2.0	- 21.8
Regular-weight	2/6,815	7,448	5,713	+ 4.3	- 23.3
50 percent or more wool 1/	6,480	7,071	5,218	-	- 26.2
Other	54	377	495	-	+ 31.6
Summer-weight	2,845	2,870	2,352	- 3.7	- 18.1
50 percent or more wool 1/	1,371	1,069	671	- 25.6	- 37.2
Other	1,474	1,801	1,681	+ 16.7	- 6.7
Separate dress and sport trousers	19,920	18,861	19,505	- 9.6	- 3.4
50 percent or more wool 1/	7,927	5,589	5,530	- 32.7	- 1.0
Rayon	10,659	12,415	13,079	+ 11.2	+ 5.4
Cotton	1,334	857	896	- 38.6	+ 4.4
Overcoats and topcoats	2,247	2,469	1,773	+ 4.9	- 28.2

1/ The classification for 1950 read "25 percent or more wool"; it is believed, however, that the figures are closely comparable. 2/ Totals shown include estimates of garments cut by reporters who did not report fiber content of garments; the totals, therefore, exceed cuttings shown by fabric.
Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing, by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-May 1951-52

Type of garment	January-May 1952	January-May 1951
	Percent	Percent
Suits		
Regular-weight	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	91.3	94.9
Other	8.7	5.1
Summer-weight	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	28.5	37.3
Other (primarily rayon and nylon)	71.5	62.7
Trousers	100.0	100.0
Cotton	4.6	4.6
Rayon	67.0	65.8
50 percent or more wool	28.4	29.6

Compiled from data in reports of the Bureau of the Census.

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